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The **PALIMPSEST**



Bob Feller after his second no-hitter
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYERS FROM IOWA

Published Monthly by
The State Historical Society of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa

APRIL 1955



The Meaning of Palimpsest

In early times a palimpsest was a parchment or other material from which one or more writings had been erased to give room for later records. But the erasures were not always complete; and so it became the fascinating task of scholars not only to translate the later records but also to reconstruct the original writings by deciphering the dim fragments of letters partly erased and partly covered by subsequent texts.

The history of Iowa may be likened to a palimpsest which holds the record of successive generations. To decipher these records of the past, reconstruct them, and tell the stories which they contain is the task of those who write history.

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Cover

Front: Feller (left) and catcher Frank Hayes congratulate each other after Feller's no-hit, no-run defeat of New York on April 30, 1946. Hayes' homer in the ninth was the game's only score.

Back—Inside: Bill Bryson of the *Des Moines Register*, Al Grady of the *Iowa City Press-Citizen*, Earl Hilligan of the *American League*, and Clifford Kachline of *The Sporting News* generously aided in the compilation of this table.

Back—Outside: An on-the-spot sketch of a game between Boston and Philadelphia in London, England, on Aug. 3, 1874. It appeared in *Harper's Weekly*, Sept. 5, 1874. The game was one of several the teams played on their tour of the British Isles that year. Boston won, 24 to 7, and a London paper declared that, for the victors, "Spaulding [*sic*] and M'Vey were decidedly the most efficacious [with the bat, while for the losers] Anson deserves a word of praise."

The photographs of Otto Vogel and Jack Dittmer are courtesy of the State University of Iowa Sports Information Service.

Author

George S. May is Research Associate with the State Historical Society of Iowa.

ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MATTER JULY 28 1920 AT THE POST OFFICE AT
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THE PALIMPSEST

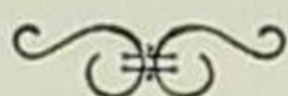
EDITED BY WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

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Outfielders: McVey to Lindell

In 1869 the Cincinnati Red Stockings became the first baseball team to openly proclaim itself a professional club. Players from all over the country were hired, and the club toured the nation, compiling a record of 69 straight victories in 1869 and 1870. The Red Stockings' success encouraged other teams to drop the pretense of amateurism. In 1871 the National Association of Professional Ball Players was formed, the first of the big leagues.

Among the members of the famous Cincinnati team was Calvin A. McVey, a husky eighteen-year-old from Montrose, Iowa, who played right field for \$800. McVey and shortstop George Wright, who received the top salary of \$1,400, were the team's batting stars. McVey's part in his team's first defeat was unusual and it took place, as one might suspect, in Brooklyn. Facing the Brooklyn Atlantics, Cincinnati had a 7-5 lead in the last of the eleventh. As McVey raced to catch a fly ball an excited Brooklyn fan jumped on his

back, causing him to miss the ball. As a result, one run scored, and a few plays later the winning runs came home.

In 1871 higher salaries lured McVey, Wright, and other Red Stockings to join Boston, which dominated the new association from 1872 through 1875. McVey eventually played every position on the field. He and the great pitcher, Albert Spalding, formed one of the famous batteries of the day. When Deacon Jim White took over the catching, McVey played other positions. But he was most noted for his hitting. He compiled such averages as .366 in 1871 and .385 in 1874. Next to second baseman Ross Barnes, McVey was Boston's hardest hitter.

By 1875 the National Association was so infested with gamblers that the public lost faith in its integrity. During the year McVey, Barnes, White, and Spalding, who were known as Boston's "Big Four," were induced to sign with the Chicago White Stockings. When the association threatened to take action against the move, Chicago's president, William A. Hulbert, together with young Spalding, formed the National League, with strict rules forbidding gambling and other practices which had thrown the association into disrepute. In the face of this opposition the association collapsed while the National League has prospered ever since.

McVey played with Chicago in 1876 and 1877,

after which he returned to Cincinnati as manager and player in 1878 and 1879. The team did not do well under his leadership, and since his batting average also dropped McVey left major league baseball in the latter year. Subsequently McVey moved to California, where he died in 1926.

Calvin McVey was the first of more than a hundred Iowans who have played in the major leagues, only a handful of whom became stars. McVey was best known as an outfielder, but fifteen years after his retirement another outfielder from Iowa, Fred Clarke, arrived in the National League. His fame was to far surpass that of Iowa's first major league player.

Clarke was born in Madison County, Iowa, but grew up in Des Moines. His baseball talents were first recognized by Ed Barrow, who later achieved immortality as the man who built the great New York Yankee teams of the Ruth-Gehrig-DiMaggio eras. In the late 1880's Barrow was circulation and advertising manager of the Des Moines *Leader*. In addition, he was the organizer and manager of a local baseball team. Impressed with young Clarke's baseball potentialities, he hired him as a carrier boy, "because he could run like the wind and was tireless." In addition to his newspaper chores Clarke played for Barrow's ball club. Following this apprenticeship Clarke entered professional baseball and in 1894, at the age of 21, he was bought by Louisville of the National League.

By his second season Clarke was one of Louisville's regular outfielders, a position in which he was one of the all-time great performers. He was also a dangerous hitter. He hit .354 in 1895 and in 1897 had his best season when he hit .406. However, Clarke had to be satisfied with second place in batting that year because Wee Willie Keeler hit a fantastic .432 to lead the league. Although Clarke hit over .300 in eight different years after 1897 he never approached .400 again.

During the season of 1897 Clarke was appointed Louisville's manager, becoming one of the first "boy managers," and one of the most successful. The 24-year-old youth could do little with the weak Louisville club, but his luck changed in 1900 when the National League was reduced from 12 teams to the more familiar 8 members with Louisville merging with the Pittsburgh Pirates. Clarke became the Pirates' manager, a post he held for 16 years.

Pittsburgh finished second in 1900, but then were champions for the following three seasons under Clarke's leadership. Their margin of victory over second place Brooklyn in 1902 was an amazing $27\frac{1}{2}$ games. In 1903 Pittsburgh's National League champions played the Boston Red Sox, champions of the American League, in the first of the modern World Series. Partly due to injuries which had decimated Clarke's pitching staff, the Pirates lost, 5 games to 3. Clarke had

better luck in 1909, however, when his fourth National League pennant winning team defeated Detroit 4 games to 3 in the October classic. Clarke helped the cause with home runs in the first and fifth games.

Clarke's service with Pittsburgh ended after 1915, although he returned briefly in the mid-1920's as a Pirate coach and executive. Since his playing days Clarke has become a wealthy rancher in Kansas, but he was remembered in 1945 by election to baseball's Hall of Fame.

Another Iowan who starred for many years as an outfielder in the American League was Edmund "Bing" Miller of Vinton. Miller's father was a minor league player and two of Bing's brothers played professional ball. Bing himself started out as the star pitcher of the local Vinton Cinders. However, by the time he reached the majors with Washington in 1921 he was an outfielder.

In 1922 Miller was traded to Connie Mack, who was rebuilding the Philadelphia Athletics. Shortly such fabulous figures as Al Simmons, Lefty Grove, Mickey Cochrane, Jimmy Foxx, George Earnshaw, and others, joined Miller, Jimmy Dykes, and Ed Rommel who were early members of the brilliant array of stars who swept Philadelphia to three pennants and two World Championships from 1929 to 1931. On such a team Bing Miller perhaps received less recognition than he

deserved. Mack traded him to the St. Louis Browns in 1926 but got him back in 1928.

Until age slowed him down Miller could be relied upon to hit well over .300. His best year was 1924 when he hit .342 in 113 games, but in 1929 he hit .335 in 147 games while in the World Series against the Chicago Cubs that fall he aided the A's attack with a .368 average. In addition, it was Miller who drove in the winning run with a double in the last of the ninth of the deciding game of the series. After the series the town of Vinton and a host of Iowans honored him at a great banquet.

In 1935, at the age of 41, Miller moved to the Boston Red Sox, where he was still good enough to bat .304 as a part-time outfielder. He finished out his playing days in 1936 with the Red Sox, but he remained a familiar figure in baseball thereafter as a coach with several clubs, including Connie Mack's last Philadelphia Athletic team.

George Stone of Clinton had a brief, but notable career as an outfielder with the St. Louis Browns from 1905 through 1910. In his first season he hit only .296, but led the American League in total hits. The following season Stone's average rose to .358, the highest in the league. He is the only Iowan to lead the American League in batting. In 1907 Stone's average dropped to .320 and in his remaining three years with the Browns he failed to approach .300.

John Lindell, who was born in Colorado but was raised in Winfield, Iowa, had an unusual baseball career. He won the award of Minor League Player of the Year as a pitcher in 1941, but when he was brought up to the majors by the New York Yankees Lindell showed such promise as a hitter that manager Joe McCarthy put him in the outfield in 1943. Lindell remained with New York until 1950, sometimes as a regular outfielder, but more often as a very useful utility man. He hit .300 in 1944 and .317 in 1948, and tied for the league leadership in triples in 1943 and 1944. His low average in other years did not tell the whole story, because, like so many Yankee players, Lindell was a clutch hitter. In the 1947 World Series he batted .500. In addition, although he was the biggest man on the club, Lindell became a very capable fielder.

Released to the St. Louis Cardinals in 1950, Lindell was soon sent back to the minors. There he took up pitching again, won 24 games for Hollywood in the Pacific Coast League in 1952, and returned to the majors with Pittsburgh in 1953 when he was nearly 37 years old. Lindell pitched some good games for Pittsburgh and the Philadelphia Phillies during this final tour of the big leagues, but his hitting caused him to be used as a frequent pinch-hitter.

Several other Iowans have patrolled the outfield for big league clubs, one of whom deserves men-

tion because of the fame he later won elsewhere. This is Billy Sunday, a native of Ames who, as a twenty-year-old outfielder with a Marshalltown team in 1883, caught the eye of Marshalltown's most famous baseball son, Cap Anson, manager of the Chicago White Stockings. Anson signed Billy Sunday up with Chicago, although many Windy City players insisted that Sunday would never have made the big time had he not come from Anson's home town club.

Between 1883 and 1890 Sunday played with Chicago, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia in the National League. His speed was his chief asset. He was acknowledged to be the fastest man in baseball. He was one of the leading base stealers of the day, being able to circle the bases in 15 seconds. In addition, he made good use of his speed in the outfield. Sunday's hitting was his weakness. He struck out his first thirteen times at bat with Chicago, and except for 1887 he had difficulty batting over .250. Consequently he often warmed the bench.

Late in the season of 1887 Sunday was converted to Christian service. The next day Chicago played a crucial game with Detroit. John Clarkson was Chicago's pitcher. "Cigarettes put him on the bum," Sunday, the evangelist, later recalled. "When he'd taken a bath the water would be stained with nicotine." In the ninth, with two out and two Detroit men on base, Clarkson slipped

as he pitched and the batter clouted a towering drive in Sunday's direction. Sunday turned, ran and prayed, "God, if you ever helped mortal man, help me to get that ball, and you haven't very much time to make up your mind, either."

With a great effort Sunday caught the ball and turned head over heels. As he got up a prominent man who had bet \$1,500 on Chicago rushed up and gave him \$10 to buy the best hat in Chicago in gratitude for Sunday's game-saving catch. Years later an old Methodist minister said to Sunday, "Why, William, you didn't take the \$10, did you?" "You bet your life I did," Sunday replied.

Sunday quit baseball in 1891 to enter religious work, but he maintained an interest in baseball down to his death in 1935. His unorthodox sermons were full of baseball slang and poses. Once he rigged a bat-shaped slat in his pulpit and at the right moment yanked it loose, crying that he was going to make a three base hit off the devil. At this, Jimmy Ryan, an old Chicago teammate who was in the congregation, shouted, "Go to it, Bill. You never could do it with us."

GEORGE S. MAY

Infielders: Anson to Dittmer

Among all the Iowans who have played in the infields of big league teams one name stands out: Adrian C. "Cap" Anson, the great first baseman of the Chicago White Stockings from 1876 to 1897. Anson was born in Marshalltown in 1851. When the town organized its first baseball team in the 1860's Henry Anson, town founder, played third base while his oldest son, Sturgis, played center field. Young Adrian at first had to be content to play on a second string club. Sturgis was an excellent player, but not as fanatical as were his younger brother and his father, who gulped their suppers in their haste to play baseball.

After Adrian was promoted to the first team as second baseman the club won the state championship at Belle Plaine in 1867. Adrian later attended the State University of Iowa for a brief period and was at Notre Dame in 1869 and 1870. He admits that he was a rather wild youth, far more interested in sports than in an education. He excelled at all games but baseball was his life.

In 1870 Marshalltown took on the touring Forest City team of Rockford, Illinois, in an exhibition game. The Rockford club was one of the best in the nation, chiefly because of the exploits of two

local residents, Ross Barnes and Albert Spalding. The Marshalltown players, therefore, were happy when they held the score down to 18 to 3 in favor of the Forest Citys. Followers of the Rockford team were used to bigger scores, however, and so they played another game the next day which the Forest City nine won, 35 to 5.

Rockford was impressed with some of the local talent, however, and when they decided to enter a professional team in the National Association in 1871 they signed Sam Sager and Adrian Anson of the Marshalltown team. Sager did not last long with Rockford, but Anson became a regular member, receiving \$65 a month. Spalding and Barnes had joined Boston, however, and without these stars Rockford finished last in the league and disbanded at the season's end.

Anson then signed with the stronger Philadelphia Athletics at a salary of \$1,250 a year. Like Boston's Cal McVey, Anson served as a jack of all trades with Philadelphia, playing the outfield, all the infield positions and frequently catching. By 1875 his salary had risen to \$1,800.

In 1874 the Athletics and Boston crossed the Atlantic to demonstrate baseball to the English. Although the American players knew little about the game, they defeated some of England's finest cricket teams at their own sport. Later, in 1888, Anson and Spalding led the Chicago team on a grand tour of the world.

Anson agreed to play for Chicago in 1876 for \$2,000. Anson's fiancée, a Philadelphia girl, objected to his moving to Chicago. The Athletics offered Anson \$2,500 if he would stay with them. Anson, therefore, asked Chicago President Hulbert and Spalding, who had been named team manager, for his release. Spalding refused, since he placed too great a value upon Anson's services. Unlike many of the players of that day, Anson could be depended upon to stay in condition during the baseball season. He was also a man of his word, and this resulted in his honoring his contract with Chicago when he could not get his release.

Spalding managed the club in 1876 and 1877 and then retired to devote himself to his sporting goods business. A year later, in 1879, Anson was appointed manager and captain of the White Stockings. It was at this time that he placed himself permanently at first base and received his nickname of "Cap."

Under Anson's leadership Chicago dominated the National League through most of the 1880's. After finishing third in 1879 they were league champions the following three years. They finished second in 1883 and fourth in 1884, but returned to the top again in 1885 and 1886. Although the team was a contender several times thereafter, it won no more pennants under Anson.

As manager Anson was known as a strict taskmaster, but he and Spalding, who became club

president, overlooked habits in many of their stars which no manager or owner would tolerate today. They instituted spring training in the South in 1886, however, in an effort to get the players back into some kind of condition after their winter dissipations. In addition, Anson is credited with raising team play to new levels of perfection.

As a player Anson was regarded as a model first baseman. Offensively, from 1874 to 1897 he hit .300 or better every year except 1891 and 1892. Four times he led the National League in hitting and twice he hit more than .400, although the glitter of his .421 mark in 1887 is dimmed by the fact that bases on balls counted as hits that season. He is credited with 3,524 hits during his career, more than any player except Ty Cobb. Counting his five years in the National Association Anson was a big league player for 27 years, a record equalled by no one. Only Mel Ott and Ty Cobb have played with one club as long as Anson did with Chicago. In 1897, at the age of 46, Anson was still Chicago's first baseman and he hit .302.

Anson was the baseball idol of his day. The greatest thrill in the early lives of Connie Mack and John McGraw was when they first played against him. In 1891, when McGraw was an eighteen-year-old player with Cedar Rapids in the Three-I League, Chicago stopped by one day for an exhibition game. McGraw, the first man up for the local team, hit a clean single. As he ran

past Anson at first the brash rookie remarked, "Say, old-timer, so that's what you call big league pitching, eh?" He and Anson had several arguments during the game, but afterwards the great star congratulated young McGraw on his play and even suggested that Chicago might use him some day. "Gee," McGraw later recalled, "but I was chesty over having attracted the attention of the great Anson!"

A man with strong prejudices, Anson's opposition to Negroes in organized baseball was a chief factor in creating an unwritten rule that was not broken until Branch Rickey signed Jackie Robinson in 1945. Anson hated James Hart, Spalding's hand-picked successor as president of Chicago, and the feeling was mutual. When Anson's contract expired in 1897 Hart forced Spalding, who remained the club's chief stockholder, to choose between him and Anson. Spalding valued Hart's business ability too highly, and so reluctantly agreed that his old teammate should not be rehired. Relations between Anson and Spalding deteriorated rapidly after that, with Anson bitterly attacking Spalding in his autobiography. But in 1910 Spalding still referred to Anson as "one of the greatest ball players that ever lived."

Anson signed to manage the New York Giants in 1898 but resigned within three weeks after a fight with the owner. On the whole, his later years were a rather sad contrast with the glory

he had known as a ball player. He died in 1922 just as he had been named as manager of Chicago's Dixmoor Golf Club. His fame remained, however. In 1939 he was made a member of baseball's Hall of Fame. Back in his old home town the town's baseball teams are invariably called the "Ansons." The Marshalltown Ansons captured the Iowa Open Baseball title in 1954, much as Anson's team had done in 1867.

More recently another first baseman, Hal Trosky of Norway, Iowa, was a man to be reckoned with. After a brief appearance with Cleveland in 1933, Trosky won the job as the Indians' regular first baseman in 1934 as he batted .330 and slammed out 35 home runs. During Trosky's time the majors were full of first basemen like Lou Gehrig, Jimmy Foxx, Hank Greenberg, Zeke Bonura, Dolf Camilli, and Johnny Mize. As fielders some of these big men could not move off the proverbial dime but they were devastating batters.

Trosky more than held his own in such company. In 1934 and in 1937 he hit three home runs in a single game, and during his first six seasons he hit a total of 180 home runs. In 1936 Trosky had his greatest year, batting .343, hitting 43 home runs, for a club record that stood until 1953, and leading both leagues with 162 runs batted in.

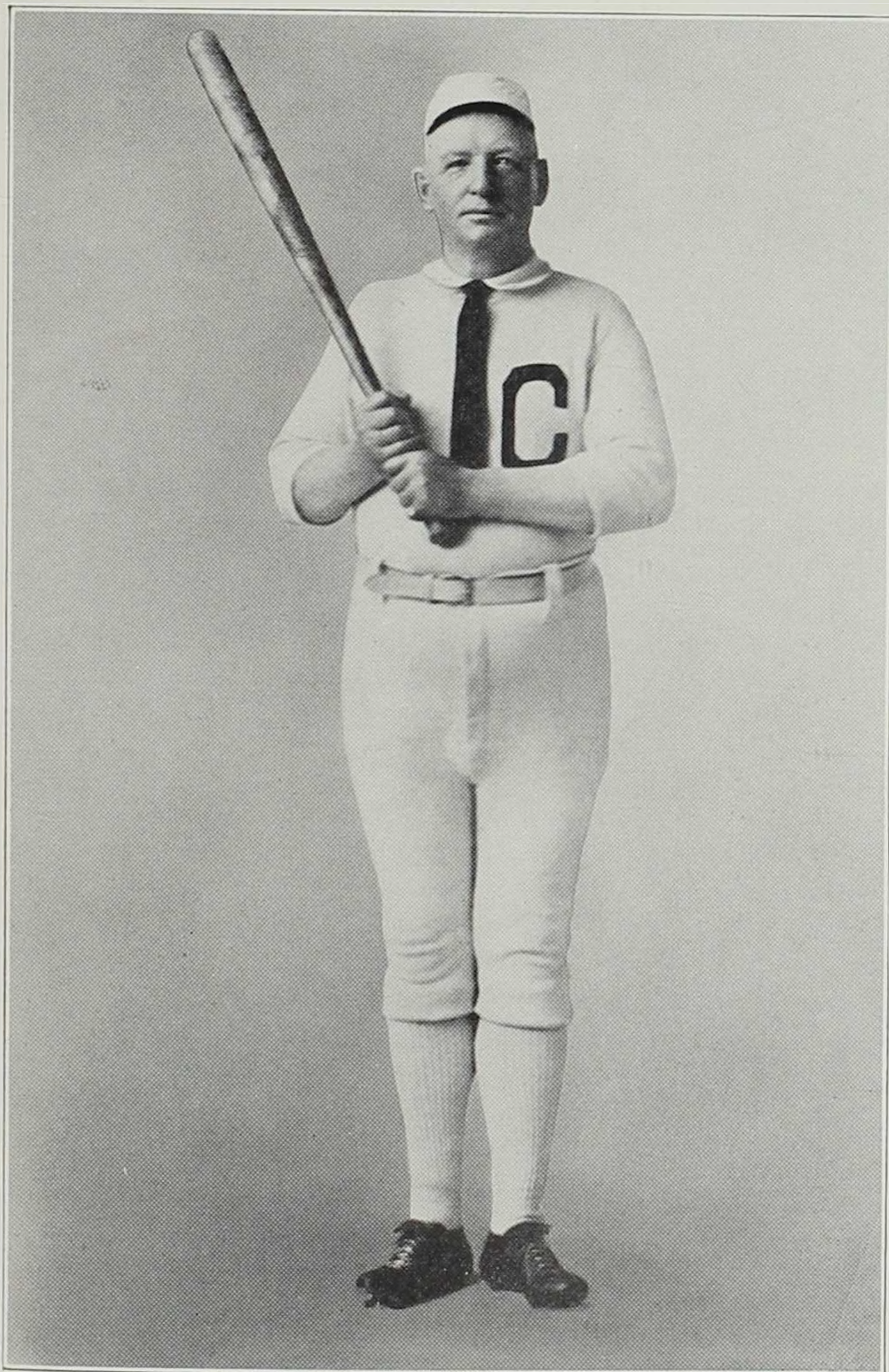
After his batting average fell to .298 in 1937 Trosky batted .334 and .335 in 1938 and 1939 respectively. He dropped to .295 in 1940. During

this year the famous revolt by the players took place against manager Oscar Vitt of the Indians. Many fans who were down on Trosky because of his batting slump charged that he was the leader of the so-called "Cry Babies." When asked to give his reasons, one such fan, deceived by the name Trosky, declared, "What can you expect? He's a Russian, isn't he?" Actually, Trosky was no more the leader of the revolt than were several other members of the team. Later, when a truce had been patched up, Trosky once ran over from his first base position during a game and persuaded Vitt not to put in a relief pitcher, although the manager had already waved the man in from the bull pen. Vitt shortly made Trosky field captain of the team.

In 1941 Trosky's career came to a virtual end as a result of severe migraine headaches which forced him to go into voluntary retirement before the season was over. He was only 29 at the time, with several good years apparently ahead of him. In 1944 and 1946 he tried a comeback with the Chicago White Sox, but he was not his old self.

Another brilliant infielder, Joe Quinn, was born in Australia but was raised in Dubuque. Quinn played for eight big league teams between 1884 and 1901. During this long career as a second baseman, however, he hit only twice over .300. He also managed the St. Louis and Cleveland clubs of the National League in 1895 and 1899 respec-

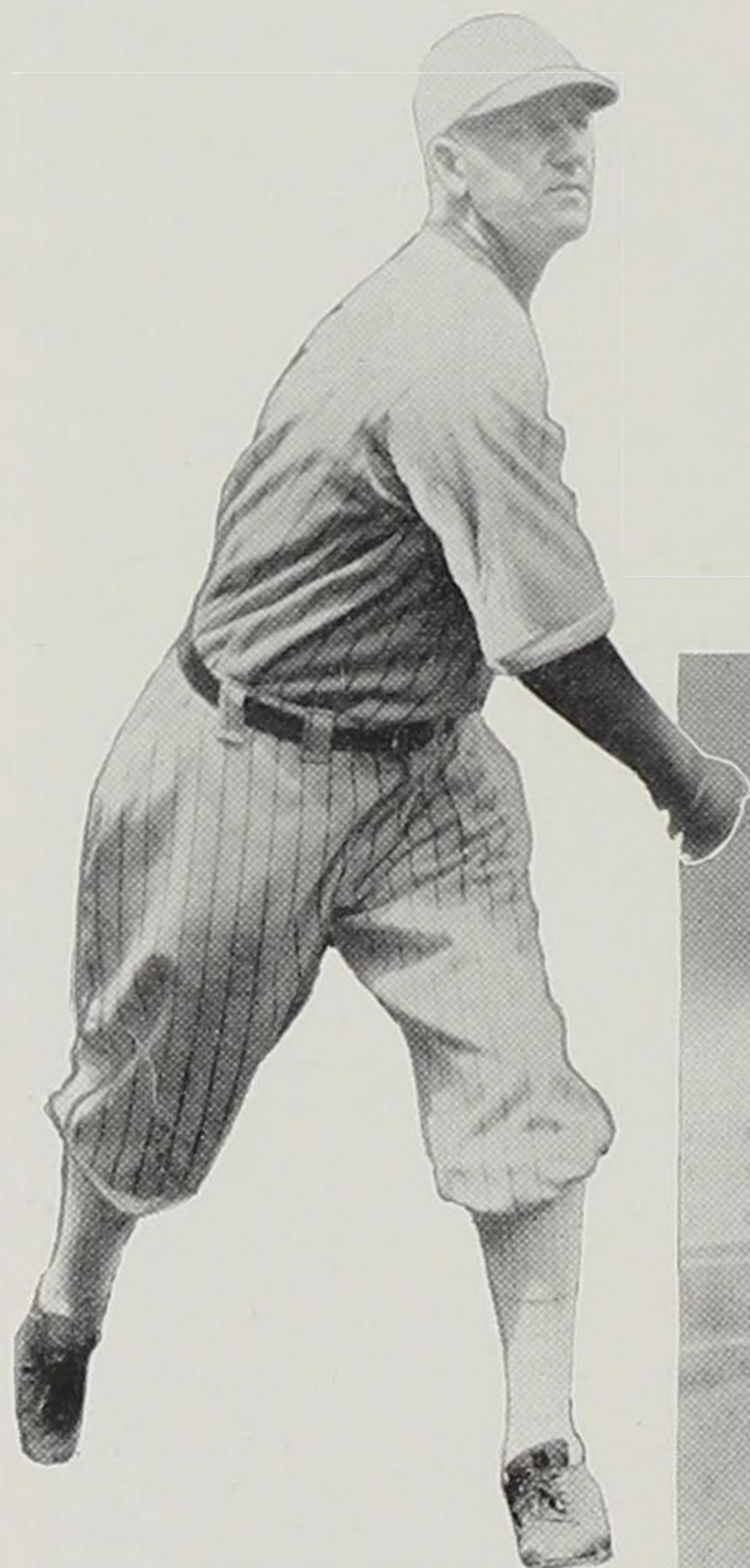
IOWA'S MOST FAMOUS OLD-TIME BASEBALL STAR



Courtesy Underwood and Underwood

Adrian C. "Cap" Anson faces the photographer near the end of his long and brilliant career as manager and first baseman of Chicago of the National League.

FROM WHITE STOCKING TO WHITE SOX



Urban "Red" Faber of Cascade (above) was 40 years old when this picture was taken in 1928. However, he won 13 games that season, and managed to win 36 more games before he retired at the age of 45 after 20 years with the Chicago White Sox.

Ames' Billy Sunday (below) poses in his White Stocking uniform in a photographer's studio during the 1880's. Cap Anson complained that Sunday's throw was hard to handle since it landed "in the hands like a chunk of lead."



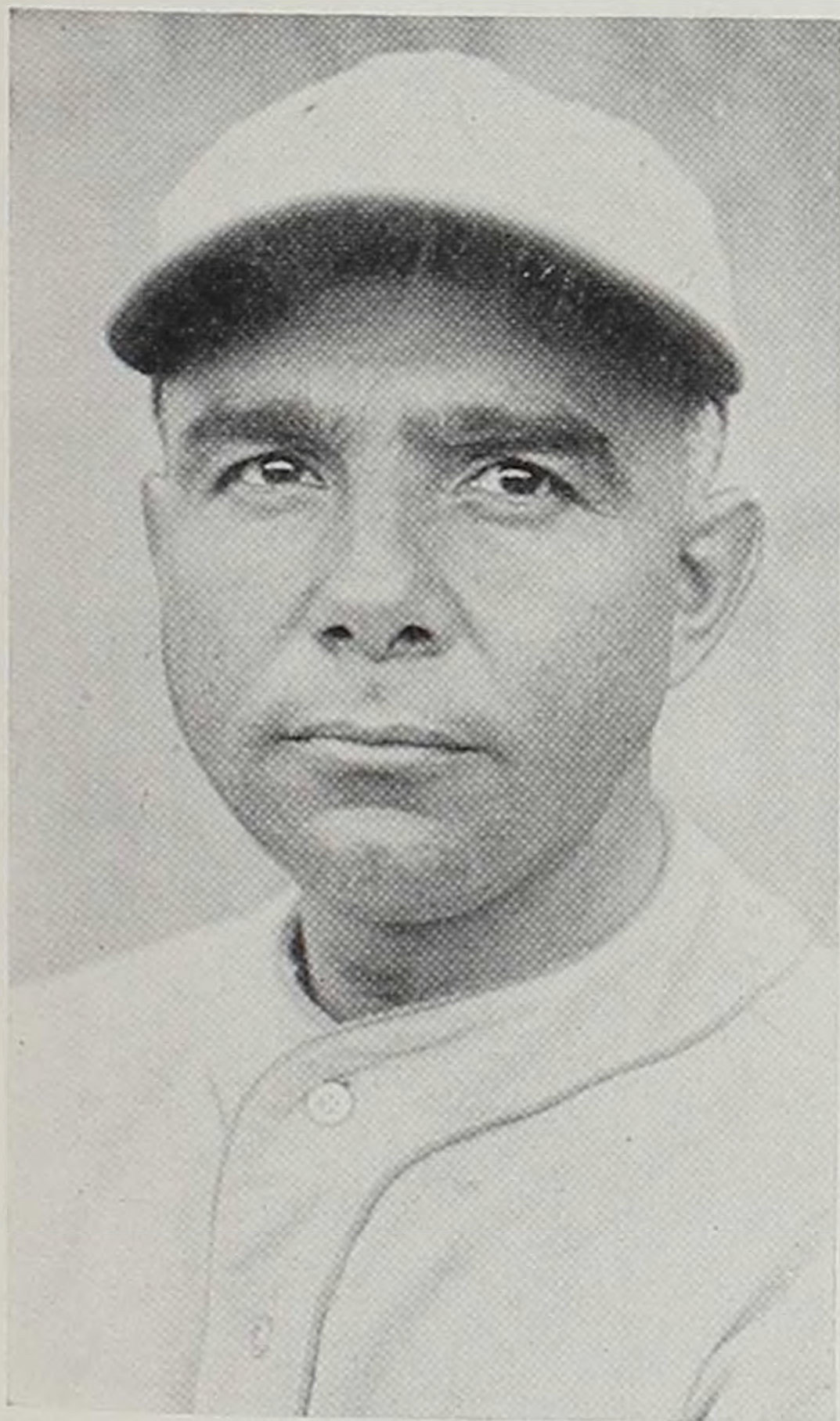
FAMOUS NAMES OF THE PAST



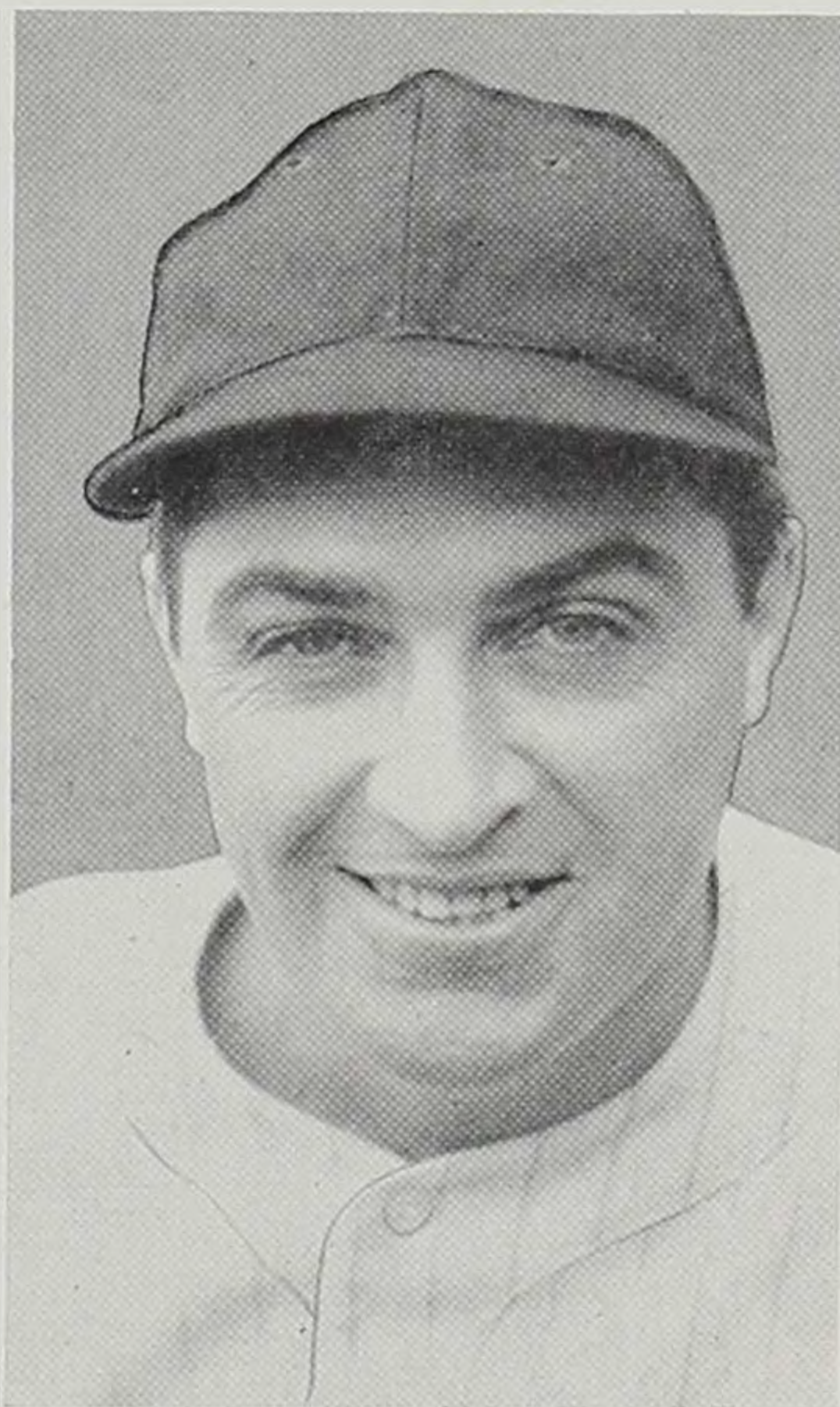
FRED CLARKE
Born in Madison County



ED BARROW
Raised in Des Moines

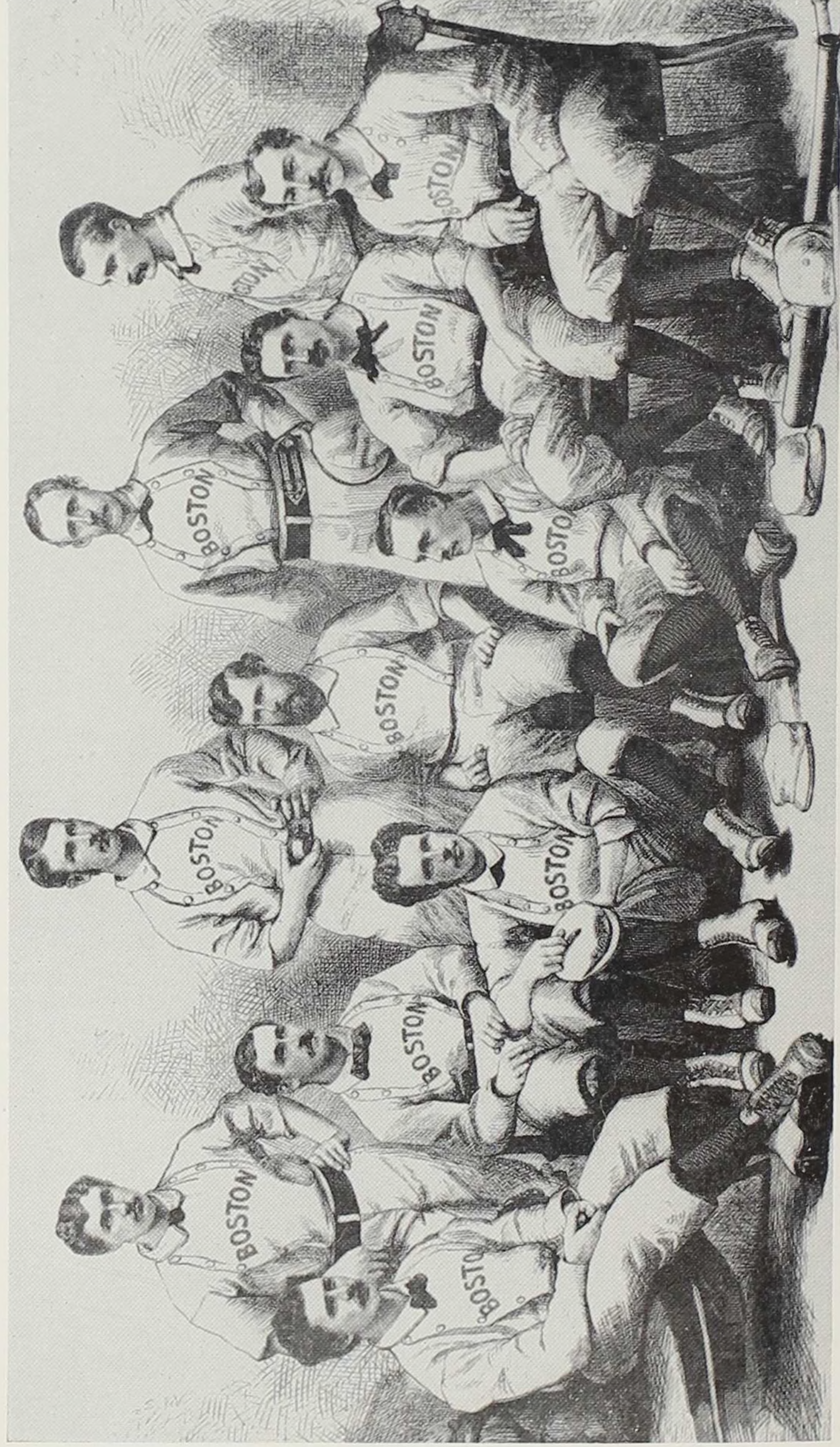


EDMUND "BING" MILLER
Born in Vinton

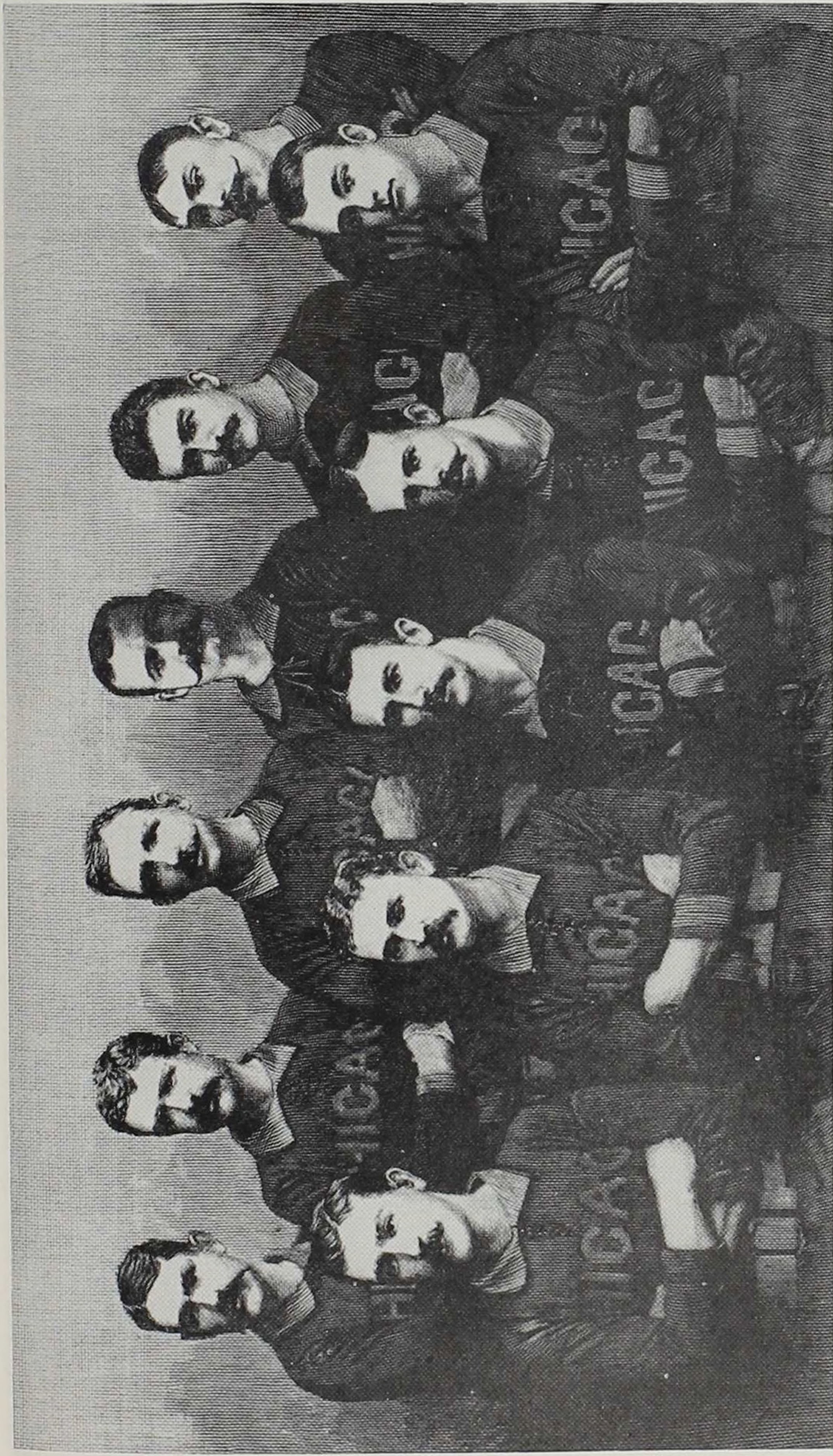


EARL WHITEHILL
Born in Cedar Rapids

THE BOSTON RED STOCKINGS, CHAMPIONS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, 1874

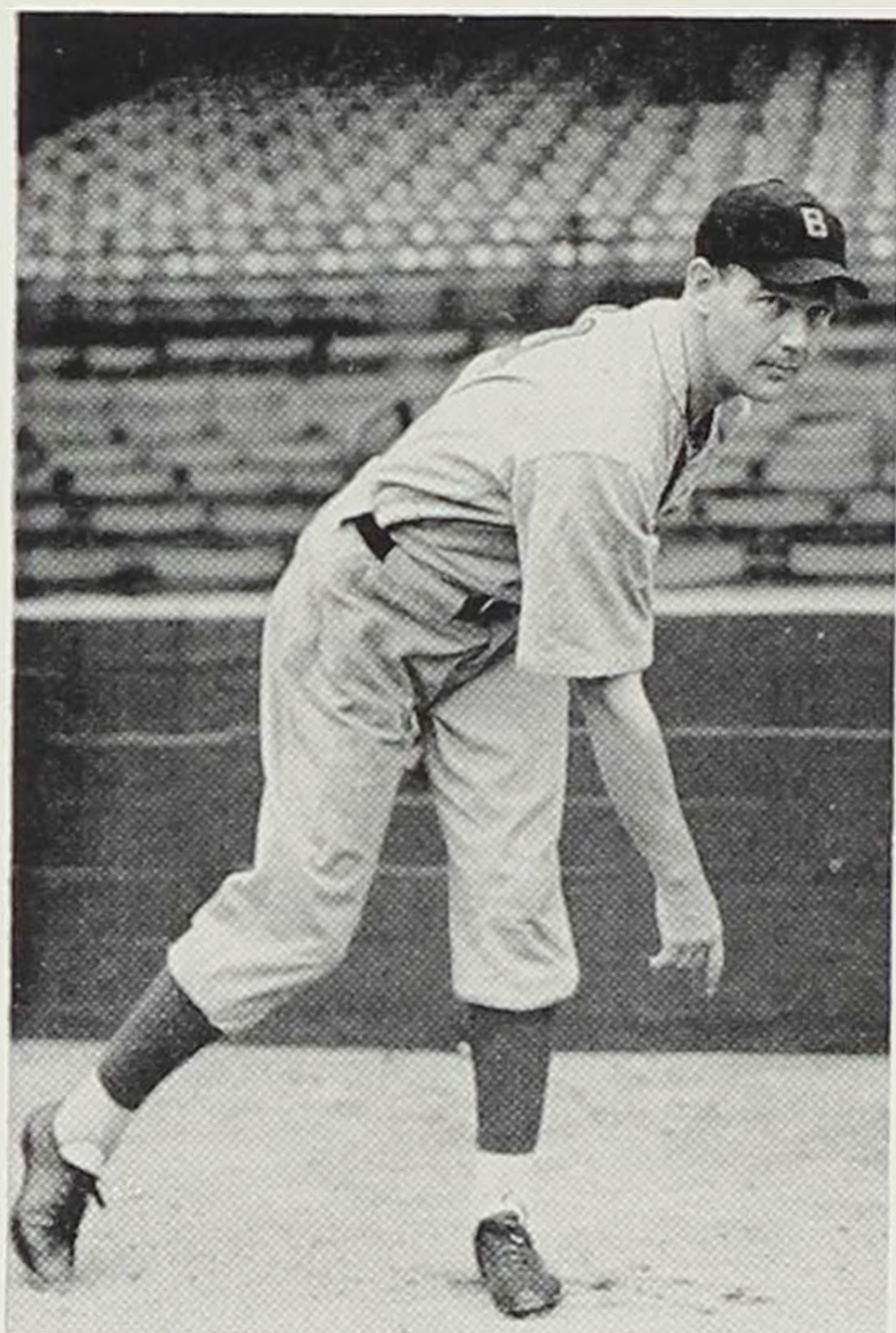


Boston was the undisputed king of baseball from 1872 through 1875, as it won four straight National Association championships. In 1875, the Association's last year in existence, the Red Stockings won 71 games while losing only 8. In this engraving from *Harper's Weekly*, June 27, 1874, Iowa's Cal McVey stands at the left. Standing with him (left to right) are the other members of Boston's "Big Four": Albert Spalding, Deacon Jim White, and Ross Barnes. The bearded man is Manager Harry Wright, while the



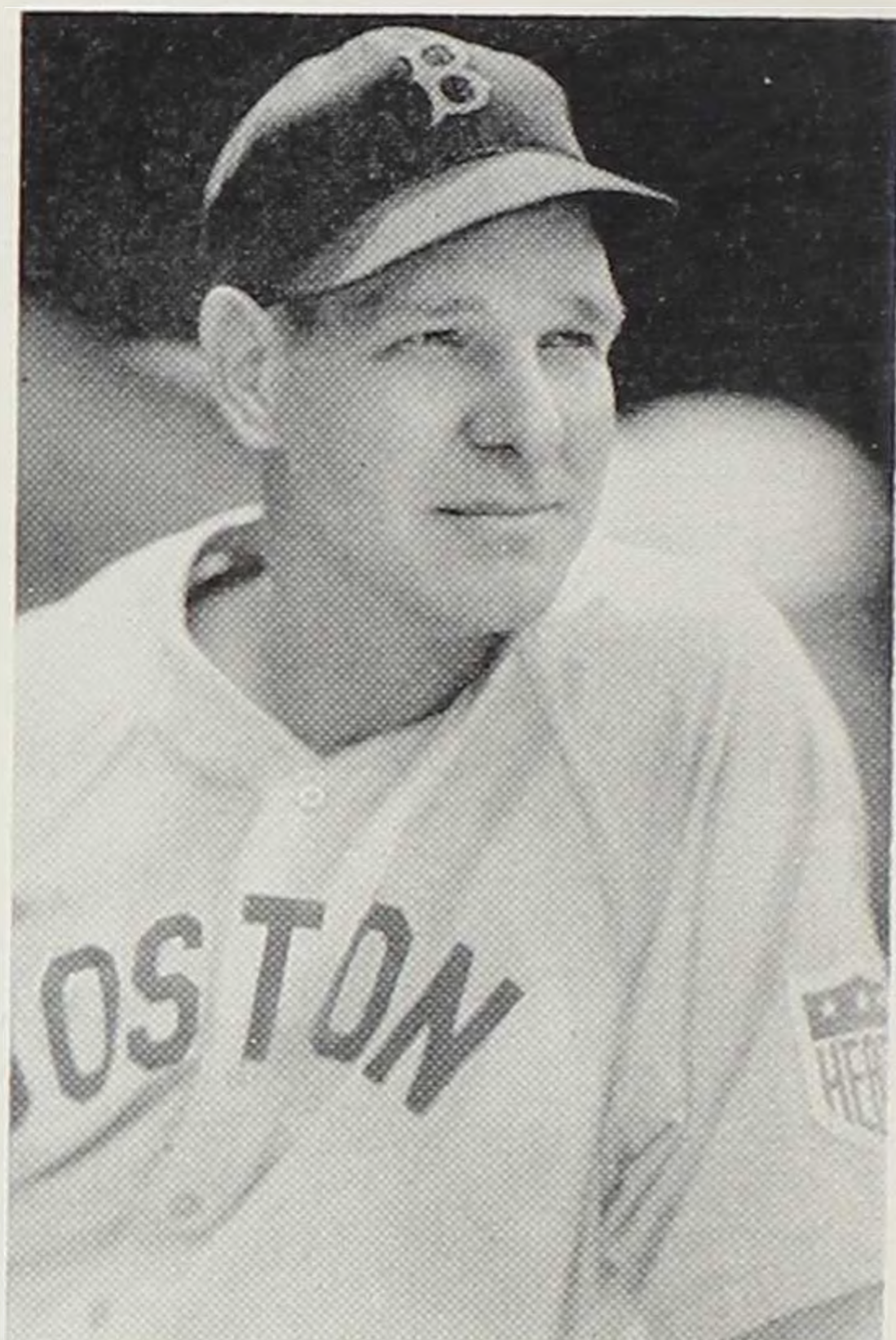
After a close race, Chicago beat out New York for the National League pennant in 1885, for the fourth of five championships which the White Stockings were to win under the leadership of Cap Anson. *Harper's Weekly* for October 17, 1885, in which issue this picture appeared, commented that Chicago's players were "a good-featured, honest-faced, and sturdy-looking set of young Americans." Third from the left in the rear is Cap Anson, while Billy Sunday sits at the right in the front. Next to him is the famous pitcher, John Clarkson.

FOUR IOWA PITCHERS



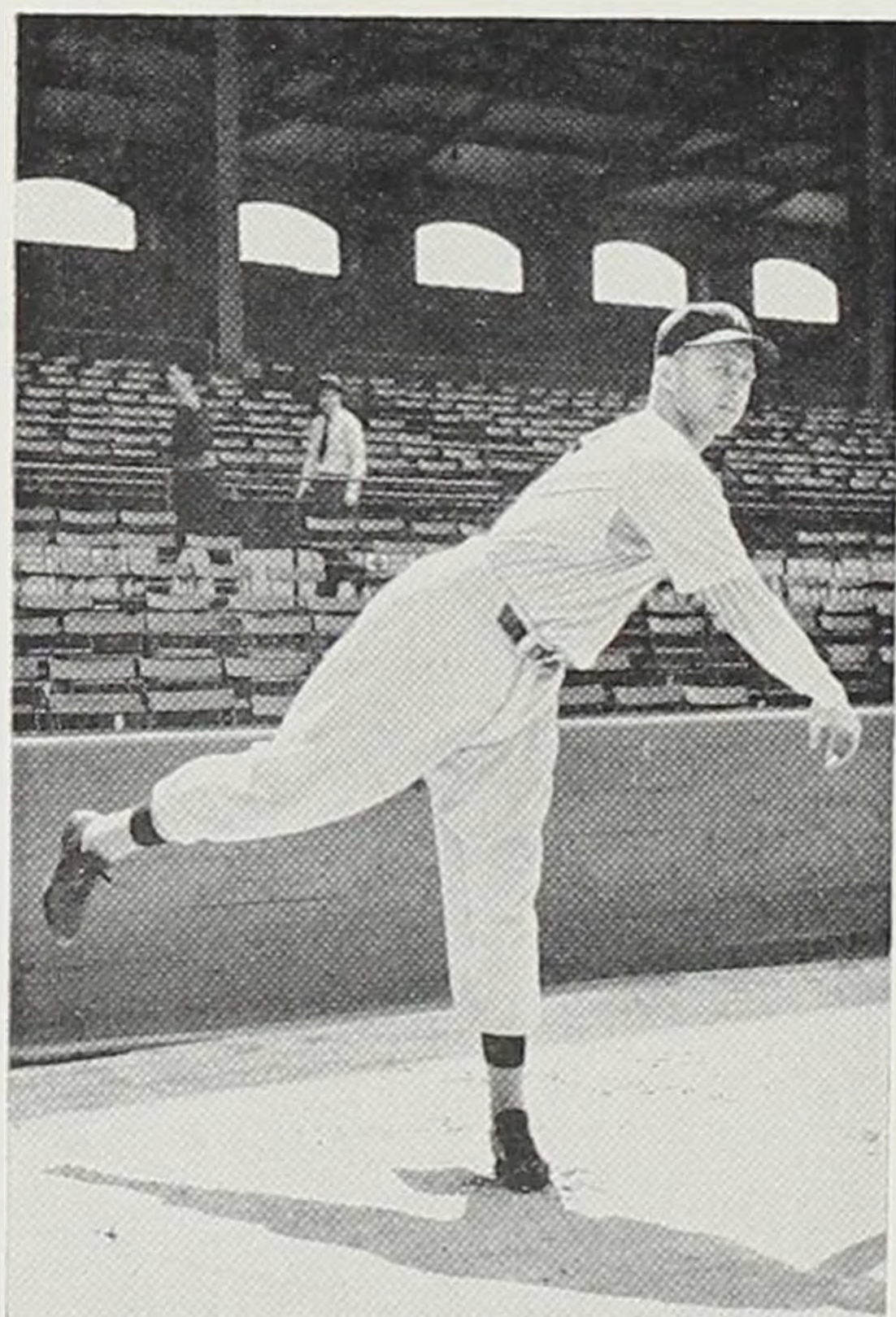
Courtesy American League

GEORGE PIPGRAS
Denison



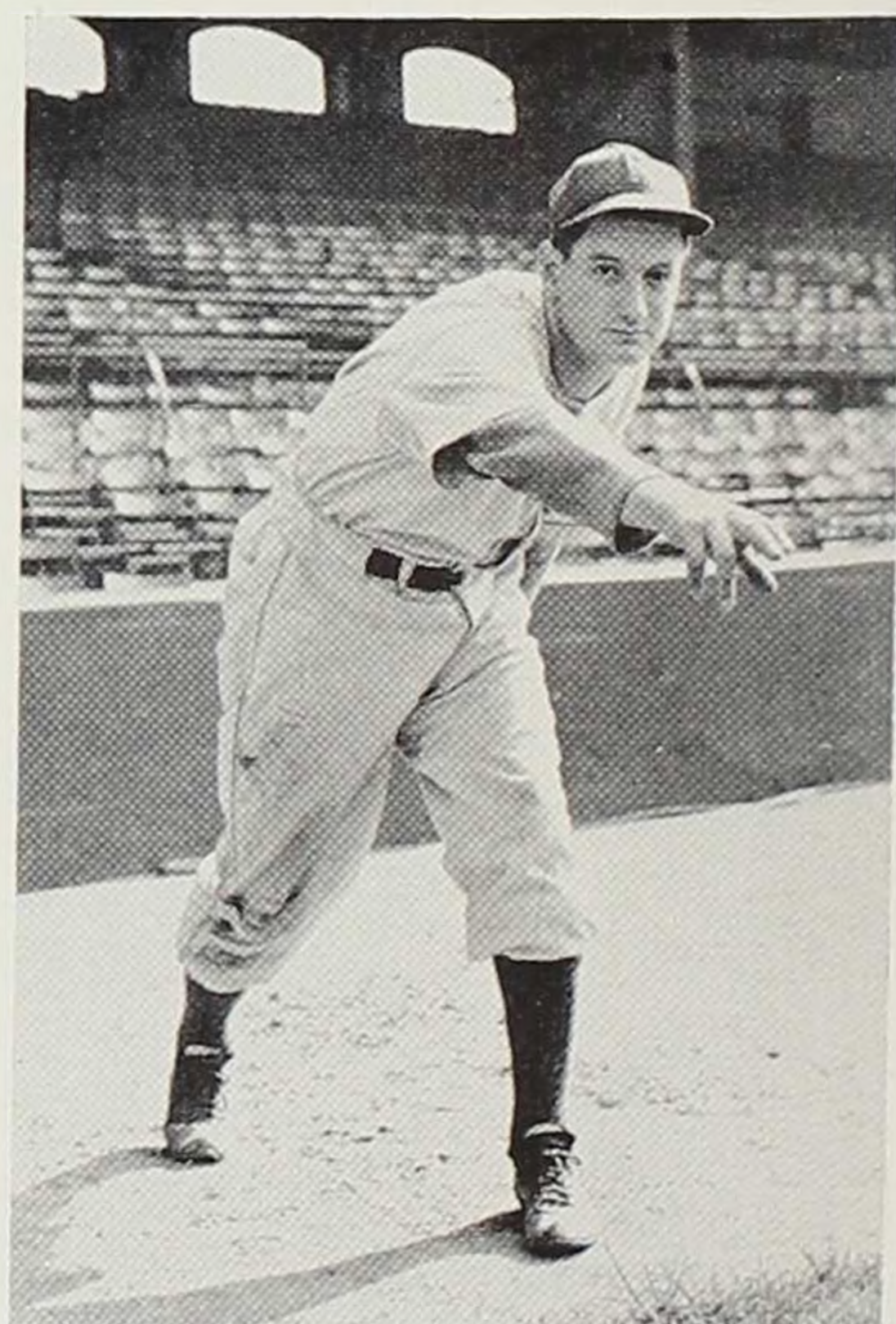
Courtesy Otto Vogel

MACE BROWN
North English



Courtesy American League

BILL ZUBER
Amana



Courtesy American League

DON BLACK
Salix

FOUR WHO PLAYED IN THE MAJORS



Courtesy Des Moines *Register and Tribune*

Hal Trosky, the former hard-hitting first baseman of the Cleveland Indians from Norway, Iowa, gives some advice in 1949 to a Cedar Rapids pitching hopeful, Arnold Pavileck, on what it takes to reach the big leagues.



PAT GHARRITY
C, Iowa City

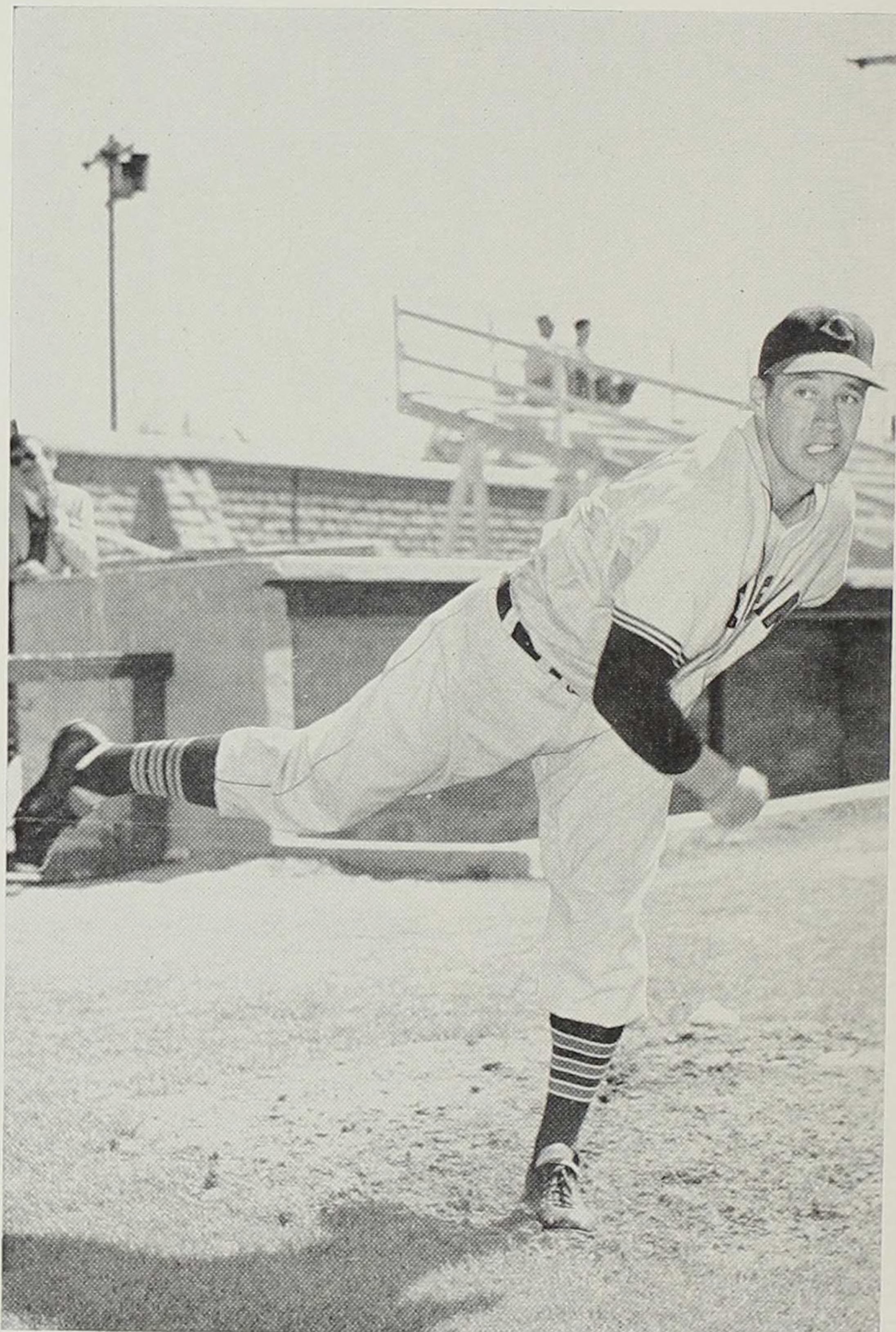


OTTO VOGEL
3B-OF, Davenport



JACK DITTMER
2B, Elkader

IOWA'S MOST FAMOUS ACTIVE PLAYER



Courtesy Cleveland Indians

Bob Feller of Van Meter warms up. As the 1955 baseball season began, Feller had won more games as a major league pitcher than any other Iowan, while his total strikeouts placed him third among all the pitchers who have played in the majors.

tively. Recently Jack Dittmer of Elkader, a baseball and football star at the State University of Iowa, has shown some promise of developing into a star second baseman with the Milwaukee Braves as has Gene Baker of Davenport with the Cubs.

One of the best known shortstops of the 1920's was Dave Bancroft of Sioux City. Among the smallest men ever to play regularly in the majors, "Beauty" Bancroft stood 5' 8½" and weighed only 145 to 160 pounds during his playing days. He broke in with the Philadelphia Phils in 1915 at the age of 23 and was one of the few to perform well for Philadelphia in the World Series that year after the team won its first National League championship.

Bancroft stayed with the Phils until the summer of 1920 when he was traded to the New York Giants. His great playing was largely responsible for lifting the Giants into first place in 1921, and in the next two years. Bancroft went to Boston in 1924 as manager of the Braves. This was a thankless task since the Braves were a perennial second division club. In Bancroft's first season the team finished last, losing 100 games for the third straight year. He raised them to fifth place in 1925, but in 1926 and 1927 the team fell back to seventh.

After the latter season the Braves sought a new magician, and Bancroft moved to Brooklyn, where he finished out his career as a player, before re-

turning to the Giants as a coach from 1930 to 1933. Besides being a defensive standout, Bancroft was also a capable batsman, averaging .319, .321, and .304 with McGraw's champions of 1921-1923, while he did his best to inspire his Braves by hitting .319 in 1925, and .311 in 1926.

Among catchers none has been more durable than Hank Severeid of Story City, who broke into the majors with Cincinnati in 1911, then played with the St. Louis Browns from 1915 to 1925 when he was traded to Washington. He wound up his big league career with the Yankees in 1926, but continued playing in the minors until the end of the 1937 season when, at the age of 46, he hung up his catching paraphernalia for the last time. During his 29 years in organized baseball Severeid caught 2,603 games, more than any other catcher on record.

Hank Severeid was the Browns' regular catcher from 1916 through 1924, catching over a hundred games a year except for the war year of 1918. During much of this time the Browns were one of the league's weak teams, but for a brief period in the early 1920's, led by the mighty George Sisler, they were a serious contender. During these years Severeid was a man to be reckoned with at the bat, averaging .324, .321, .308, and .308 from 1921 through 1924. In 1925, with the Browns and Senators, Severeid hit .361.

GEORGE S. MAY

Pitchers: Hoffer to Feller

A galaxy of pitching stars have come out of Iowa. Even if we omit Jack Coombs, a native of Le Grande, who was a star on Connie Mack's great teams from 1906 to 1914, but who was raised in Maine, and the brilliant Brooklyn ace, Dazzy Vance, who was born in Orient but spent most of his youth in Nebraska, many familiar names remain.

Bill Hoffer of Cedar Rapids was a mainstay on the staff of the great Baltimore Oriole team of the 1890's. From 1895 through 1897 he won 79 while losing only 24 games. His mark of 31-7 in 1895 and 26-7 in 1896 were the best in the National League. In his last four seasons following 1897, however, he succeeded in winning only 18 games as against 21 defeats.

Every team needs a relief pitcher and Mace Brown of North English was one of the best. After starring with the State University of Iowa in the early 1930's as both a catcher and a pitcher, Brown came up to the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1935 and from then until 1946 he was a leading hurler with the Pirates, Dodgers, and Red Sox. His best year was 1938 when he won 15 and lost 9 with the Pirates, mostly in relief.

That year Pittsburgh almost won the pennant. In the final game of the season Pittsburgh played Chicago, who trailed them by half a game. In the last of the ninth with two out the score was tied. Darkness was falling and soon would force the game to be called. On the mound was Mace Brown. At bat was manager Gabby Hartnett of the Cubs. Brown worked the count quickly to 2 strikes and no balls. On the verge of success, Brown pitched again. Hartnett met the ball squarely, sending it into the left field bleachers to win the pennant for his team.

One of the truly outstanding Iowa baseball names is Urban "Red" Faber. Born and raised in Cascade, Faber was one of the greatest athletes in the history of what is now Loras College. After several years in the minors, his brilliant pitching with Des Moines in the Western League in 1913 attracted considerable attention. His contract was bought by the Chicago White Sox and in 1914 Faber began his 20-year playing career with that club.

By 1915 Faber had blossomed into one of the league's outstanding pitchers as he won 24 and lost 13. Although his favorite pitch was the spitball, Faber also had good speed. A right-hander, he threw from a sidearm delivery. He had excellent control, and was known for his cleverness and coolness under fire.

In 1917 Faber and Eddie Cicotte, the famous

"shine ball" pitcher, led the White Sox to the championship. Facing the New York Giants in the World Series, Cicotte won the first game. Faber pitched the second. In the fifth inning, with two out and Buck Weaver on second, Faber singled to right. Weaver stopped at third, but the throw went to the plate, allowing Faber to take second and causing him to think that Weaver had scored. As the Giant pitcher stepped on the mound Faber noted him taking a big windup. "I thought Perritt was trying to show me up," Faber related, "and it seemed a cinch to steal, so I started with the pitch. You can't imagine my feelings on arriving at third when I heard Weaver say: 'Hello! What are you doing here?' I realized at once that I had pulled a 'boner,' but no one will ever know the feeling of mortification and chagrin that came over me." Despite Faber's mistake Chicago won the game, giving Faber his first series win.

The Giants defeated Cicotte in the third game, and Faber, 5 to 0, in the fourth, tying up the series. In the fifth game Faber came on as Chicago's fourth pitcher of the day with the score tied at 5 all. He proceeded to retire the Giants in order in both the eighth and ninth innings. Meanwhile, Chicago scored three runs in the eighth, to give Faber victory number two. The clubs headed for New York with Chicago ahead 3 games to 2.

After a day off for travel Chicago manager Pants Rowland, who had been born in Wiscon-

sin, but raised in Dubuque, decided to start Faber in the sixth game. Facing him was New York's veteran left-hander, Rube Benton. Entering the fourth inning of a scoreless game Chicago's Eddie Collins led off with a grounder to Heinie Zimmerman, who threw wildly over the first baseman, permitting Collins to reach second. Shoeless Joe Jackson fled to the Giant right fielder, who dropped the ball, Collins moving to third. With the infield in for a play at the plate Happy Felsch grounded to Benton. Collins was caught off third and Benton tossed to Zimmerman. No one was covering home, however, and so Zimmerman had no choice but to run after the fleet Collins, in an unsuccessful effort to tag him before he scored.

Chicago scored two more runs in this famous inning and another in the ninth, while Faber held New York to only two runs. The White Sox were World Champions and Faber the hero of the series. He had won three games, a feat duplicated only twice since that time. Faber's father danced on the sidewalk outside his hotel in Cascade when he heard the news and handed out cigars to everyone in town.

After serving in the navy in 1918, Faber returned in 1919 and seemed about to have a great year when, around June, he lost his effectiveness. He pitched scarcely at all in the last two months and took no part in the World Series of 1919 in which several Chicago players, including Weaver,

Cicotte, and Jackson, were later revealed to have been persuaded by gamblers to throw the games to Cincinnati.

Many thought Faber was washed up as a pitcher, but he staged a great comeback, winning 83 games during the following four seasons, although the Sox tumbled to the second division after the expulsion in 1921 of those involved in the gambling scandal. In 1921 and 1922 Faber had the best earned run average in the majors.

In 1920 a rule was adopted outlawing the spitball and all other pitches which applied foreign substances to the ball. Whatever the reason for this move, the spitball was not outlawed because of a belief that it was an unsanitary pitch. Babe Ruth remarked, "What does it matter if a guy wets the ball? Gosh, Red Faber is the nicest man in the world." Under the rule, all pitchers then active in the majors who relied on the spitball were allowed to use it through the remainder of their career. Faber and Jack Quinn were the last American League spitball artists, both retiring after the 1933 season. Burleigh Grimes in the National League retired the following year, ending the spitball era.

Faber could still win 10 games with a last place team in 1931 at the age of 42. Equally as remarkable, he shut out the Chicago Cubs in the Chicago City Series in October, 1933 after he had passed his 45th birthday. His lifetime record of 253

games won and 211 games lost was the best any Iowan compiled as a big leaguer until Bob Feller surpassed it in 1954.

Another Iowan who starred in World Series play was George Pipgras, a big righthander from Denison. After gaining experience in Ed Barrow's farm system for several years, Pipgras came up to the New York Yankees in 1927 and compiled a 10-3 record for the American League champions. In the World Series the Yanks swept by the Pittsburgh Pirates in four straight games, Pipgras pitching and winning the second game, 6 to 2. The following year he had his greatest year in the majors, winning 24 games against 13 defeats for New York, who won their third straight pennant. This time the St. Louis Cardinals opposed the Yankees in the October classic. New York's fearsome "Murderers' Row" revenged themselves on the club that had beaten them in 1926 by scoring another four game sweep. Pipgras again pitched the second game, facing ancient Grover Cleveland Alexander, the man who had dramatically saved the day for St. Louis in 1926. New York jumped on Alexander for 8 runs in the first three innings, knocking him out in the third. Pipgras, after getting off to a shaky start, allowed but two hits in the last seven innings and only one runner to get beyond first.

Pipgras continued to be a steady winner for the Yankees until 1931 when he fell off to a 7-6

record. He regained his effectiveness in 1932, however, winning 16 while losing 9 as New York returned to its accustomed spot atop the league standings. Pipgras started for the Yankees against the Chicago Cubs in the famous third game of the World Series in which Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth each hit a pair of homers. Ruth's second blast into the bleachers came after the mighty Bambino is supposed to have pointed to the spot to which he would hit the ball. Pipgras, meanwhile, after another faltering start, pitched well until the last of the ninth when two solid Cub hits caused Joe McCarthy to bring in Herb Pennock in relief. Pennock saved the game and Pipgras was credited with his third series win without a defeat.

The following season Pipgras was traded to the Boston Red Sox, but his days as a winning pitcher were over. He saw almost no action in 1934 and 1935, his final seasons in the majors. He later returned as an American League umpire from 1939 to 1945.

Earl Whitehill, a left-handed pitcher who spent many fruitful years in the majors, was a native of Cedar Rapids. Coming up with Detroit late in the season of 1923, Whitehill was with the Tigers for the following nine years before he was traded to Washington in 1933. Not until that year, when he was 34 years old, did Whitehill have his first and only 20-game season. His 22-8 record was a major reason why the Senators won the pennant

that year. It seems certain, however, that Whitehill would have had several more years over the coveted 20-game mark had he been with a stronger club instead of Detroit, which was a second division team during most of Whitehill's years with them.

In the World Series of 1933 Whitehill's masterful 5-hit shutout of the New York Giants in the third game was the only victory Washington could salvage from the National League champions. Whitehill finished up his playing days with Cleveland in 1937-1938, and Chicago in 1939. A curve ball specialist, Whitehill frequently had trouble with his control, but was noted for his steadiness on the mound. He later coached in the majors, before joining the Spalding Sporting Goods Company as public relations director, a position he held at the time of his death in 1954.

As Whitehill's career was ending another Iowan was beginning an amazing career as a pitcher. In 1936 Bob Feller of Van Meter suddenly appeared as a 17-year-old right-handed sensation with Cleveland. Behind him lay years of preparation. Feller's father determined when Bob was scarcely school age that his son would be a baseball player. Each day in the summer after work on their farm was finished father and son played catch or hit grounders. Around 1930 they even rigged up a couple of arc lamps in the back yard so that they could practice after dark.

During the winter of 1931-1932 Bob's father persuaded him to devote all his attention to becoming a pitcher. "Why," he said, "you can throw hard enough to knock a bull down. In a couple of years you'll throw faster than any of those big leaguers." In 1932 the Fellers built their own baseball field, formed a team, and played other area teams to give Bob pitching experience.

Soon Bob was pitching American Legion ball, and then in 1935, at the age of 16, he was judged good enough to pitch for the Farmers' Union Insurance semi-pro team of Des Moines. One day in July, Cy Slapnicka, a Cedar Rapids native who had been a good minor league pitcher and had then become a Cleveland scout, watched Bob pitch and was so impressed that he and Mr. Feller agreed at once that Bob would play for Cleveland's Northern League affiliate, Fargo-Moorhead, in 1936. Feller's semi-pro team went on to play in the national semi-pro tournament at Dayton, Ohio, but lost their game, although Feller struck out 18 men. Several major league representatives expressed interest in Feller, unaware that Slapnicka had preceded them.

Feller developed a sore arm the following spring and, upon Slapnicka's advice, did not report to Fargo-Moorhead. Feller was still only a junior in high school. Slapnicka, now Cleveland's general manager, asked him to report to the Indians after school was out so they could work the

soreness out of his arm. Meanwhile, Slapnicka transferred Feller's contract from Fargo-Moorhead to the Indians' affiliate at New Orleans. In Cleveland, once Feller's arm improved, Slapnicka put him to work pitching with a local amateur club. Shortly he signed him to a Cleveland contract.

Later in 1936, Des Moines of the Western League protested to Commissioner Kenesaw M. Landis that Feller had been signed in violation of an agreement that only minor league teams could sign players directly from amateur ranks. Des Moines asked that Feller's contract be invalidated so that they could sign him up. Before Landis made his decision a new agreement had been drawn up making actions such as Slapnicka had taken valid. Thereupon, although he castigated Cleveland for its handling of the Feller case, Landis ruled that it would be futile to invalidate Feller's contract because Cleveland or some other major league club could immediately sign him up again under the terms of the new agreement. The fact that Feller was happy to be with Cleveland influenced Landis in making his lenient decision.

Feller first won national attention in an exhibition game on July 9, 1936, between Cleveland and the St. Louis Cardinals in which he pitched three innings. Steve O'Neill, Indian manager and former great catcher, caught Feller himself. After Feller struck out two of the first three men to face him, O'Neill said, "I'm not as spry as I used to be,

and you might kill me with that fast ball before we're through, but you're great, Kid."

During his three innings Feller struck out eight of the famous Gas House Gang. As Cardinal shortstop, Leo Durocher, came to the plate for the second time against Feller he remarked to the plate umpire, "I feel like a clay pigeon in a shooting gallery." After the game photographers asked Dizzy Dean if he would pose with Feller. Dean replied, "After what he did today, he's the guy to say." Turning to Feller, Dizzy said, "You sure poured that pea through there today, Fellows."

Since that time Bob Feller has been one of the most highly publicized major league baseball players. He has been perhaps the greatest gate attraction since Babe Ruth. He is best known, of course, for his strikeout records. In his first starting assignment with the Indians in August, 1936, Feller struck out fifteen St. Louis Browns. On September 13, 1936, he tied the major league record for strikeouts in one game when he set down 17 Philadelphia A's. In 1937 Feller struck out 16 Boston Red Sox batters, and on October 2, 1938, he struck out 18 Detroit Tigers to set a new major league mark which still stands. These two clubs had on their rosters some of the league's most feared batsmen. As a matter of fact, Detroit defeated Feller 4 to 1 in the very game in which he set his new game record.

In 1946 Feller struck out 348 men, breaking the

major league record which had been set 42 years earlier by Rube Waddell. Feller led the league in strikeouts for seven years and by 1954 had a lifetime strikeout total exceeded only by those of Walter Johnson and Cy Young. Like many fast ball pitchers, however, Rapid Robert was also very wild in his early years. But as his fast ball began to lose some of its fire in the post-war seasons, Feller adjusted his pitching style and became a control pitcher, depending on his years of experience and his ability to put the ball where he wanted it plus a few new pitches to make up for his loss of speed.

A sore arm laid Feller up for part of the 1937 season. The following year he had a 17-11 record, but in 1939 he really fulfilled all the hopes the Indians had had in him as he won 24 games while losing only 9. Ordinarily, a player of Feller's youth would have gained his experience in the minors, but Feller had to get his the hard way which accounts for his early erratic performances. Opposing clubs heckled him severely, shouting such pleasantries as, "Time for milking, country boy." By 1940, however, Feller ignored such remarks completely and did not let them upset his poise.

Two days after Pearl Harbor Bob Feller enlisted in the navy and did not return to the Indians again until late in 1945. Virtually four full seasons when Feller was at the peak of his form were

thus blotted out by World War II. Undoubtedly had the war not intervened, Feller could have established a major league lifetime record for most strikeouts, and placed in the top five in total number of games won. But it should be remembered that Feller won 107 games and struck out 1,233 batters before he was 23 years old, an age at which such stars as Cy Young, Lefty Grove, and Grover Cleveland Alexander had not yet begun to pitch in the big time.

Feller's strikeout records may be surpassed but his performances in individual games will live on. Eleven times he has pitched a one-hit ball game, which is in itself a record. Even greater, however, is his feat of having pitched three no-hit games, a mark equalled in modern times only by Cy Young. The first of Feller's no-hitters came against the Chicago White Sox on opening day of 1940. Feller walked 5 and struck out 8 as he won the game 1 to 0. On April 30, 1946, he defeated the New York Yankees by the same score, striking out 11 batters, walking 5, but giving up no hits to a team which had such men as Joe DiMaggio, Tom Henrich, Charlie Keller, Joe Gordon, Phil Rizzutto, and Bill Dickey in the lineup. The victory was doubly sweet to Feller because a few days earlier the story had been circulated in the press that his days as a star were about over.

Similar stories appeared continually in later years as Feller began to lose his speed and had

seasons which were poor for him but would have pleased most pitchers. In 1951 he staged a notable comeback, winning 22 while losing 8. One of his wins was a no-hitter over Detroit on July 1, with the final score being 2 to 1 in the Indians' favor. In 1954 Feller made still another "comeback." As he approached his 36th birthday, he had become a spot pitcher, but in this role he won 13 games and lost only 3.

The one triumph that has eluded Feller has been a World Series victory. He had his chance in 1948 against the Boston Braves, and pitched magnificently in the opening game. He allowed the Braves only 2 hits, but his opponent, Johnny Sain, shut out the Indians on 4 hits. The game's only run was scored in the eighth by the Braves' Phil Masi from second base where he had just been called safe on a pickoff play from Feller to Boudreau. Many observers, however, felt that Masi had been tagged out. Feller started the fifth game, but this time was pounded unmercifully and had to be replaced. In the 1954 World Series Feller did not pitch, chiefly because the New York Giants swept the series in four straight, forcing Cleveland to pitch its three aces and not allowing them the opportunity to put in Feller.

GEORGE S. MAY

IOWANS IN THE MAJOR LEAGUES Lifetime Major League Records of Some Iowa Baseball Stars

Batters	Y	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	BA
Anson, Adrian (Cap), Marshalltown (1851-1922), Rockford, Phil. (NA), Chicago (NL), 1871-1897, 1B.....	22	2253	9084	1712	3081	—	—	.339*
Bancroft, David (Beauty), Sioux City (1892), Phil., N. Y., Boston, Brook. (NL), 1915-1930, SS.....	16	1913	7182	1048	2004	32	579	.279
Carroll, Samuel (Cliff), Clay Grove (1859-1923), six teams (NL), 1882-1893, OF.....	11	989	3901	593	1006	30	—	.258†
Clarke, Frederick, Madison County (1872), Louisville, Pitts. (NL), 1894-1915, OF.....	21	2204	8584	1620	2703	65	—	.315
Gharitty, Edward (Pat), Iowa City (1892), Washington (AL), 1916-1930, C.....	10	680	1971	237	515	20	246	.261
Holmes, James (Ducky), Des Moines (1869-1932), seven teams (NL, AL), 1895-1905, OF.....	10	917	3574	542	1012	16	—	.283
Lindell, John (b. Colorado), Winfield (1916), N. Y. (AL), St. L., Pitts., Phil. (NL), 1941-1954, OF.....	12	847	2790	401	761	72	402	.273
McVey, Calvin, Montrose (1850-1926), four teams (NA, NL), 1871-1879, OF.....	totals unavailable — highest average: .385 in 1874							
Miller, Edmund (Bing), Vinton (1894), Wash., Phil., St. L., Boston (AL), 1921-1936, OF.....	16	1821	6212	947	1937	117	990	.312
Quinn, Joseph (b. Australia), Dubuque (1864-1940), eight teams (UA, NL, PL, AL), 1884-1901, 2B.....	17	1727	6472	811	1682	30	—	.260†
Rawlings, John (Red), Bloomfield (1892), six teams (FL, NL), 1914-1926, INF.....	12	899	3127	350	819	12	—	.262
Severeid, Henry (Hank), Story City (1891), four teams (NL, AL), 1911-1926, C.....	15	1375	4312	408	1245	17	530	.289
Stone, George, Clinton (1877-1945), Boston, St. L. (AL), 1903-1910, OF.....	7	846	3269	426	984	23	—	.301
Sunday, William (Billy), Ames (1863-1935), Chicago, Pitts., Phil. (NL), 1883-1890, OF.....	8	487	2028	330	521	12	—	.257
Trosky, Harold (Hal), Norway (1912), Cleveland, Chicago (AL), 1933-1946, 1B.....	11	1347	5161	835	1561	228	1012	.302

Pitchers	Y	G	IP	W	L	Pct.	SO	BB	H
Black, Donald, Salix (1916), Phil., Cleveland (AL), 1943-1948.....	6	154	797	34	55	.382	293	400	803
Brown, Charles (Buster), Prairie City (1882-1914), St. L., Phil., Boston (NL), 1905-1913.....	9	236	—	49	104	.320	438	551	—†
Brown, Mace, North English (1910), Pitts., Brook. (NL), Boston (AL), 1935-1946.....	10	387	1075	76	57	.571	435	388	1125
Cole, Leonard (King), Toledo (1886-1916), Chicago, Pitts. (NL), N. Y. (AL), 1909-1915.....	6	128	731	55	27	.671	300	332	658
Coombs, John (Colby), LeGrande (1883), Phil., Detroit (AL), Brook. (NL), 1906-1920.....	14	355	2334	158	111	.587	1057	831	2047
Faber, Urban (Red), Cascade (1888), Chicago (AL), 1914-1933.....	20	669	4087	253	211	.545	1471	1213	4104
Feller, Robert (Bob), Van Meter (1918), Cleveland (AL), 1936-1954.....	16	526	3687	262	154	.630	2538	1710	3137
Hatten, Joseph, Bancroft (1917), Brook., Chicago (NL), 1946-1952.....	7	233	1087	65	49	.570	380	492	1124
Hoffer, William (Chick), Cedar Rapids (1871), Balt., Pitts. (NL), Cleveland (AL), 1895-1901.....	6	158	—	96	45	.681	273	370	—†
Niggeling, John, Remsen (1905), four teams (NL, AL), 1938-1946.....	9	176	1192	62	64	.492	596	495	1057
Pipgras, George, Denison (1899), N. Y., Boston (AL), 1923-1935.....	11	276	1489	102	73	.583	717	599	1529
Ragan, Don (Pat), Blanchard (1888), seven teams (NL, AL), 1909-1923.....	11	286	1599	77	104	.425	679	474	1555
Vance, Arthur (Dazy), Orient (1891), five teams (NL, AL), 1915-1935.....	17	442	2967	197	140	.585	2045	840	2808
Whitehill, Earl, Cedar Rapids (1900-1954), four teams (AL, NL), 1923-1939.....	17	541	3563	218	186	.540	1350	1431	3917
Zuber, William (Goobar), Amana (1913), Cleveland, Wash., N. Y., Boston (AL), 1936-1947.....	11	224	787	43	42	.506	383	468	767

*Includes only his record in National League from 1876-1897. †Because of the nature of the early records these totals are not entirely complete.

Other Native Iowans Who Have Played in the Major Leagues

Arnold Anderson (Lawton); Loren Babe (Pisgah); Gene Baker (Davenport); Jack Bruner (Waterloo); Charles Buelow (Dubuque); Josh Clarke (Des Moines); Bob Clemons (Clemons); Vernon Clemons (Clemons); Jack Collum (Victor); Ernest Courtney (Des Moines); James Crabb (Monticello); Jack Dittmer (Elkader); Jerome Downs (Neola); James Duryea (Osage); Foster Edwards (Holstein); Al Epperly (Glidden); Art Ewoldt (Paullina); James Fanning (Moneta); Vern Fear (Everly); Marvin Felderman (Bellevue); Louis Fiene (Fort Dodge); George Fisher (Jennings); Gene Ford (Fort Dodge); Charles Frisbee (Dows); Harry Gaspar (Kingsley); Abner Gould (Muscatine); Oscar Graham (Manilla); James Grant (Fort Dodge); Jeremiah Harrington (Keokuk); Ned Harris (Ames); Bob Hasbrouck (Grundy Center); Homer Hillebrand (Le Mars); John Hines (Cedar Rapids); Paul Hinrichs (Marengo); Roscoe Holm (Peterson); Art Jahn (Struble); Maury Kent (Marshalltown); Lynn King (Villisca); Clifford Knox (Fort Dodge); Roxie Lawson (Donnellson); Emil Levsen (Wyoming); Vivian Lindaman (Charles City); Tom Loftus (Dubuque); James Long (Fort Dodge); Joseph Lotz (Remsen); Roy Luebbe (Parkersburg); Joe Lutz (Keokuk); Adrian Lynch (Laurens); Hal Manders (Waukee); Dick Manville (Des Moines); Max Marshall (Shenandoah); Bobby Mattick (Sioux City); Walter McCreddie (Manchester); Hermus McFarland (Des Moines); Vance McIlree (Riverside); Wayne McLeland (Milton); Bill McWilliams (Dubuque); Bill Metzger (Fort Dodge); Ralph Miller (Vinton); Rolland Miller (Mason City); Dan Moeller (DeWitt); James Morgan (Neola); Francis Mulroney (Mallard); Bob Oldis (Preston); Henry Ostdiek (Otumwa); Delmar Paddock (Dubuque); Harry Patton (Davenport); Paul Paulson (Graettinger); Edward Pipgras (Schleswig); Art Reinhart (Ackley); John Richardson (Marshalltown); Dick Rozek (Cedar Rapids); Sam Sager (Marshalltown); Bill Salisbury (birthplace unknown); Jack Saltzgeber (Farmington); Frank Secory (Mason City); Wesley Siglin (Aurelia); Cy Slapnicka (Cedar Rapids); Philip Slattery (Harper); Harold Smith (Creston); Clyde Southwick (Maxwell); Carl Stimson (Hamburg); George Stueland (Renwick); John Thompson (Fort Dodge); Les Tietje (Sumner); Jay Towne (Coon Rapids); Otto Vogel (Davenport); William Wagner (Jesup); Tom Walsh (Davenport); Wilbur Wehde (Holstein); Dick Weik (Waterloo); Lyndon Welday (Conway); Roy Wilson (Foster); Clarence Yaryan (Knowlton); Paul Zahniser (Sac City).

